

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 T-03 SS-14 OMB-01 L-03 CIAE-00

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NSC-10 RSR-01 /109 W

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R 140919 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5305

INFO JUSMG/ MAAG MADRID

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1288

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH ARMY TANK RETROFIT PROGRAM

1. SPANISH ARMY EXPERIENCING DELAYS IN THEIR PROGRAM TO COPRODUCE FRENCH AMX-30 TANK. CURRENT M-47/48 TANK FLEET CANNOT CONTINUE TO MEET SPANISH ARMY TANK REQUIREMENTS UNTIL AMX-30 BECOMES AVAILABLE WITHOUT AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAM TO RETROFIT M-47. ARMY SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING RETROFITTING M-47 FLEET OF 347 VEHICLES WITH PACKAGE OFFERED BY CHRYSLER, BOWEN, MCLAUGHLIN AND YORK. TOTAL RETROFIT PROGRAM COULD AMOUNT TO \$55.52 MILLION (\$160,000 PER VEHICLE). HOWEVER, SA CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS PLACED BY US GOVT ON THEIR MAP FURNISHED M-47 TANKS. THEREFORE, COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT A STANDSTILL UNTIL SPANISH GET FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CLARIFIED:

A. SA DESIRES TO UTILIZE THEIR MAP M-47 TANKS IN DEFENSE OF TERRITORY UNDER SPANISH JURISDICTION BUT CONCERNED THAT THERE MAY BE LIMITATIONS ON AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT CONTAINED IN ORIGINAL TERMS UNDER WHICH TANKS WERE INITIALLY GIVEN SPAIN. IF SUCH A LIMITATION EXISTS, THEY MUST KNOW BEFORE THEY MAKE ANY RETROFIT DECISION.

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B. SPANISH ALSO DESIRE TO CANNIBALIZE ANY PARTS OR COMPONENTS REMOVED FROM THE M-47' S IN THE RETROFIT PROCESS (I. E., ENGINES, TRANSMISSIONS, ETC) TO MAINTAIN THE REMAINDER OF THE M-47 FLEET COMBAT READY UNTIL THE ENTIRE FLEET CAN BE RETROFITTED, WHEREUPON ALL THE PARTS AND COMPONENTS REMOVED IN THE RETROFIT PROGRAM WOULD BE DECLARED EXCESS FOR REDISTRIBUTION WITHIN SPAIN. IF RETROFIT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED, CAN THEY BE ASSURED OF THIS CANNIBALIZATION AUTHORITY?

2. IN VIEW OF SIZE OF COMMERCIAL AOPPORTUNITY AND CONSIDERABLE INTEREST OF US FIRMS IN IT, RECOMMEND WE BE AUTHORIZED WITHOUT DELAY TO ASSURE SPANISH THAT THERE IS NO LIMITATION ON USE OF TANKS IN SPANISH TERRITORY.
RIVERO

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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